



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 165***

LCO No. 1258



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:  
(AGE)

***AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-349e of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Respite care services" means support services which provide  
5 short-term relief from the demands of ongoing care for an individual  
6 with Alzheimer's disease.

7 (2) "Caretaker" means a person who has the responsibility for the  
8 care of an individual with Alzheimer's disease or has assumed the  
9 responsibility for such individual voluntarily, by contract or by order  
10 of a court of competent jurisdiction.

11 (3) "Copayment" means a payment made by or on behalf of an  
12 individual with Alzheimer's disease for respite care services.

13 (4) "Individual with Alzheimer's disease" means an individual with  
14 Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

15 (b) The Commissioner on Aging shall operate a program [, within  
16 available appropriations,] to provide respite care services for  
17 caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, provided such  
18 individuals with Alzheimer's disease meet the requirements set forth  
19 in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite care services may include,  
20 but need not be limited to: (1) [homemaker] Homemaker services; (2)  
21 adult day care; (3) temporary care in a licensed medical facility; (4)  
22 home-health care; (5) companion services; or (6) personal care assistant  
23 services. Such respite care services may be administered directly by the  
24 Department on Aging, or through contracts for services with providers  
25 of such services, or by means of direct subsidy to caretakers of  
26 individuals with Alzheimer's disease to purchase such services.

27 (c) (1) No individual with Alzheimer's disease may participate in the  
28 program if such individual (A) has an annual income of more than  
29 [forty-one] fifty thousand dollars or liquid assets of more than one  
30 hundred nine thousand dollars, or (B) is receiving services under the  
31 Connecticut home-care program for the elderly. On July 1, 2009, and  
32 annually thereafter, the commissioner shall increase such income and  
33 asset eligibility criteria over that of the previous fiscal year to reflect  
34 the annual cost of living adjustment in Social Security income, if any.

35 (2) No individual with Alzheimer's disease who participates in the  
36 program may receive more than three thousand five hundred dollars  
37 for services under the program in any fiscal year or receive more than  
38 thirty days of out-of-home respite care services other than adult day  
39 care services under the program in any fiscal year, except [that] the  
40 commissioner shall adopt regulations pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
41 section to provide up to seven thousand five hundred dollars for  
42 services to a participant in the program who demonstrates a need for  
43 additional services.

44 (3) The commissioner may require an individual with Alzheimer's  
 45 disease who participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite  
 46 care services under the program, except the commissioner may waive  
 47 such copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such  
 48 individual.

49 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the  
 50 provisions of chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section.  
 51 Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to: (1)  
 52 [standards] Standards for eligibility for respite care services; (2) the  
 53 basis for priority in receiving services; (3) qualifications and  
 54 requirements of providers, which shall include specialized training in  
 55 Alzheimer's disease, dementia and related disorders; (4) a requirement  
 56 that providers accredited by the Joint Commission on the  
 57 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, when available, receive  
 58 preference in contracting for services; (5) provider reimbursement  
 59 levels; (6) limits on services and cost of services; and (7) a fee schedule  
 60 for copayments.

61 (e) The Commissioner on Aging may allocate any funds  
 62 appropriated in excess of five hundred thousand dollars for the  
 63 program among the five area agencies on aging according to need, as  
 64 determined by [said] the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	17b-349e

**Statement of Purpose:**

To expand eligibility for the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*